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RURAL DISTRICT OF ELHAM

KENT



ANNUAL REPORTS OF ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957

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Annual Reports of the Acting Medical Officer of
Health and Public Health Inspector for the Year
1957

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report.

The mid-year Home Population of the District, according to the estimate of the Registrar-General was 9,460 an increase of 10 from the preceding year.

The number of live births was 131 (60 male and 71 female) an increase of 20 over that of the preceding year. The birth-rate of 13.85 was accordingly higher, but lower than that of 16.1 for England and Wales. When however, the rate is adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor it becomes 14.68 and compares favourably with other Districts.

There were 4 still-births compared with 1 in 1956, and the rate of 29.63 was correspondingly higher; that for England and Wales was 22.4. Adequate examination before birth and skilled attention during birth are pre-requisites for the maintenance of a low rate.

Only one infant death occurred, due to Asphyxia and the Infant Mortality rate of 7.41 was accordingly much lower than that of 23 for England and Wales. It should, however, be kept in mind that these figures are too small for general statistical comparisons.

The maternal mortality rate was nil, as no deaths occurred from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion. Nationally, this rate has been lowered from 5 to under 1 per 1,000 (live and still) births since the beginning of the Century due to the rapid progress of medical science. Toxaemia of pregnancy is now the chief cause of maternal deaths and also of stillbirths and neo-natal deaths; early ascertainment and treatment are essential to prevent its development to a fatal stage.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 221 (109 male, 112 female) and the corresponding crude death-rate was 23.26. This high crude rate was due to the relatively high mortality in St. Mary's Hospital for the Chronic Sick. Allowance is made for this by the Registrar General by his comparability factor which when applied to the crude-rate reduces it to 7.4; this compares very favourably with that of 11.5 for England and Wales.

The chief cause of deaths was the allied natural diseases of old age, viz. Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the nervous system.

The second highest cause of death, as expected, was Cancer from which there were 39 deaths.

Cancer of the Lung was responsible for 9 deaths, 5 of which occurred in St. Mary's Hospital. It may be significant that all were males, in relation to smoking habits during the last 30 - 40 years.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual incidence.

There was one death from Infectious Disease, namely Acute Poliomyelitis. The patient was a boy, 9 years old, who suffered from a fulminating infection of the bulbar form.

A small outbreak of Poliomyelitis occurred in the District the first case being in early August, followed by 4 other cases of the paralytic type and by 1 non-paralytic. The cases were widely scattered in the District and none could be related by direct contact. It is probable that the carrier rate in the area was high as many cases occurred in the surrounding Districts in the Autumn. It is anticipated that Poliomyelitis vaccination will protect those who have been vaccinated.

There was the usual outbreak of Whooping Cough, 63 cases in all having been notified. It is hoped that the modern vaccines, which are now available at the County Council Child Welfare Centres and through the family Doctors, will prevent the onset of this distressing disease amongst those children who have been inoculated.

An outbreak of Measles also occurred; 93 cases were notified. This is an inevitable disease of childhood, and due to its highly infectious nature in the stage of invasion, it spreads rapidly in schools amongst susceptible children, usually every second year. The majority of children recover without suffering from its most serious complication, i.e. broncho-pneumonia. In the few who do suffer from this complication, the pneumonia may advance rapidly within 24 hours, necessitating the application of specific treatment by Antibiotics at the earliest opportunity.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. All were mild uncomplicated cases and were treated at home. In its present phase, this disease is mild and it is not responsible for the serious complications it caused 25 - 50 years ago. Treatment by Sulphonamides or Antibiotics is also specific.

Only one case of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia was notified, although an epidemic of the so-called Asian Influenza was wide-spread. In the majority of patients, the attack was relatively mild causing an elevated temperature for around 5 days on average, and incapacity for 7 to 14 days. A minority suffered from acute upper respiratory infection, chiefly acute tracheitis with a harsh unproductive cough. The most serious complication was Pneumonia caused by the Staphylococcus aureus, a secondary invader of the lung tissue and there was a small number of deaths from this cause in other neighbouring Districts.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia (Child-bed Fever) was notified. Puerperal sepsis is now uncommon, due to modern aseptic technique and treatment with Sulphonamides or Antibiotics is also highly successful. Before the introduction of the latter from 1936, Puerperal Sepsis was the cause of many maternal deaths.

There were no other cases of serious infectious disease, in relation to which a new era has been reached in prevention and treatment.

This also fortunately applies to Tuberculosis, both to the human and bovine types. Nine new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified, 5 male, 4 female. Four of these were 55+ years of age.

No non-respiratory or bovine cases were notified. The introduction of Tuberculin Tested Herds and of Pasteurisation and the general supervision exercised over the production and distribution of milk supplies, and also of meat supplies, have been big steps forward towards safe milk and meat. A table is appended regarding a Mass Radiography Survey amongst the residents of St. Mary

Hospital Etchinghill.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Council for their courtesy and assistance in the work of the Department and also the staff for their co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL

Acting Medical Officer of Health

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Elham</u> <u>R.D.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales</u>
Live Births	131	60	71	Birth Rate	13.85	16.1
(a) Legitimate	122	56	66	per 1,000	Adjusted	
(b) Illegitimate	9	4	5	estimated	rate	
				resident	14.86	
				population		
Stillbirths	4	3	1	Rate per	29.63	22.4
(a) Legitimate	4	3	1	1,000 total		
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and		
				still) births		
Deaths	221	109	112	Death rate	23.26	11.5
				per 1,000	Adjusted	
				resident	rate 7.4	
				population		
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	Rate per	-	Not availabl
				1,000 (live		
				and still)		
				births.		
Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.	1	-	1			
(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					7.41	23.0
Rate re legitimate infants					7.63	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					39	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					-	
Deaths from Measles					-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1957.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	63
Measles	...	...	...	...	92
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	5
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ELHAM RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1957

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES				109	112
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	2	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	1	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	...	...	9	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	11	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	20	27
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	11	6
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	3	2
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	19	35
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	3	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	3	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	9	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	4	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria and
Vaccination against Smallpox, 1957

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Primary Inoculations	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	8	57	15	86
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	2	3	1	7	36	4	4	7	41	2	-	1	-	-	108

(B) VACCINATION

Primary Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	52	Before 3-1943 8
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	11

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1957

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1943).

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1953 - 1957	10	34	20	45	93	100	78	87	89	105	108	74	95	64	15	1,011
1952 or earlier	59	55	59	62	53	16	41	49	49	3	-	-	-	-	-	44

Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1957

The following table gives the numbers of children who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

<u>Born</u>	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Total
	27	13	21	16	9	7	7	8	-	-	-	108

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1957

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	33	2	5
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				
	5	4	-	-	1	-	-	-				

There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from that disease

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

Survey centre - St. Mary's Hospital, Etchinghill, nr. Folkestone.

Date - 16th to 17th July, 1957.

Number of volunteers:-

Males	134
Females	109
Total	243

Number attending Mass Radiography for first time:-

Males	24
Females	41
Total	65

Number recalled for large films:-

Males	15
Females	8
Total	23

% recalled for large films to total number examined:- 9.4%

Results

Active tuberculosis	-	Nil
Inactive tuberculosis	-	Males 5
		Females 1
		Total 6

ELHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report, 1957.

Statistics

Area: 36,685 acres.

Population:

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid year population of the District was 9,460 (9,450 in 1956).

Number of Inhabited Houses: 3,071

Rateable Value: £100,061

Sum represented by penny rate: £417 (approx.)

Staff:

Surveyor and Public Health
Inspector.

Mr. Robert Finn,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Cert. Meat and Other
Foods Inspector.

Assistant Surveyor and
Additional Public Health
Inspector.

Mr. J. Healy, M.A.P.H.I.,
Cert. Meat and Other
Foods Inspector,
from 19.7.57

Clerk and Typist

Miss M. Vincent

Refuse Collection and
Cesspool Emptying

1 foreman
4 drivers
6 loaders
2 sewage disposal
works attendants.

Rodent Operator (part time)

Mr. E.O. Pidduck.

SECTION D.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1) Water Supply

The quality and quantity of the water supplied by the two Statutory Water Undertakings was satisfactory throughout the year.

Examination of samples taken during the year

Type	No.	Bacteriological	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw water (piped)	22	12	10
Raw water (not piped)	6	3	3
Treated water	11	11	N11
Raw Water	N11	Chemical	
		N11	N11
TOTALS	39	26	13

The owner of one dwelling from which several unsatisfactory samples were obtained has now had the main supply connected.

Throughout the year several unsatisfactory samples were taken from the well at St. Mary's Hospital and subsequently the Hospital Management Committee were approached with a view to having a chlorination plant installed, and it is expected that such a plant will be installed early in 1958.

An approach has been made to the Folkestone & District Water Co. to have the main extended further up Westfield Lane in order that 7 other dwellings may be connected. Results of samples taken from these 7 dwellings have shown from time to time to be unsatisfactory.

Mid-Kent Water Company

Twelve reports on the bacteriological examination of water were received from the Mid-Kent Water Company. The reports showed that all the samples were satisfactory.

93.2% of the total number of dwellinghouses in the district had piped supplies of water.

No. of housos with piped supply

Parish	No. of houses	Direct to house	Stand pipe	Remarks
Acrise	37	34	Nil	Treated water
Elham	487	446	6	do.
Elmsted	105	104	Nil	do.
Hawkinge	354	341	Nil	do.
Lyminge	514	477	2	do.
Lympne	307	229	Nil	do.
Monks Horton	42	23	Nil	Part treated
Newington	117	84	2	Treated water
Paddlesworth	12	8	Nil	do.
Postling	58	53	Nil	do.
Saltwood	317	316	Nil	do.
Sellindge	292	272	Nil	do.
Stanford	150	139	Nil	do.
Stelling	79	79	Nil	do.
Stelling Minnis	63	62	1	do.
Stowting	68	55	Nil	do.
Swingfield	260	248	Nil	do.
TOTALS:-	3,190	2,970	11	

2) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Following a Public Inquiry held in April, the Minister of Housing and Local Government approved the scheme for the main drainage of Elham, Ottinge, Lyminge, Etchinghill and Newington; the work to be carried out in two stages.

The estimated cost of the whole scheme including house connections is £197,19 and when completed it is anticipated that 750 houses will be connected. The Minister gave approval for the commencement of stage 1 of the scheme (Newington) and it is expected that work will be started towards the middle of 1958.

The Council will be paying the cost of house connections under section 42 of the Public Health Act, 1936 and will contribute towards the cost of the conversion of pail closets to W.Cs.

The scheme for the main drainage of Hawkinge, Swingfield and part of Acrise was prepared and approved by the Council, but difficulties experienced in reaching terms with the owners of the pumping station sites delayed its submission to the Ministry.

The Council expect to be able to submit this scheme in 1958.

3) General

	No. in District	No. of Visits	No. of defects found	No. remedied
Bakehouses:	4	8	Nil	Nil
Dairies (retail):	3	6	Nil	Nil
Ice-cream premises:	26	28	1	1
Slaughterhouses:	4	339	4	4
Other places where food is prepared or sold:	55	68	10	10
Offensive trades:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories:	42	47	2	2

Summary of visits:-

Food premises, shops and slaughterhouses	727
Factories	47
Sanitary defects, Housing & Improvement Grants	267
Petroleum Storage	63
Sampling	40
Building operations and drainage	712
Town & Country Planning and Civil Defence	189
Miscellaneous	753
In connection with Main Drainage Schemes	18

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year:-

Baths, sinks etc.	8
Dustbins	14
Cooking and heating	4
Dampness	5
Roofs, R.W.P., chimneys	4
Drainage: Reconstructions	3
Drainage: Repairs	5
Sanitary accommodation	6
Walls, ceilings and floors	3
Water supplies	2

Total No. of inspections of all kinds during the year:	2,816
" No. of premises connected to main sewers	256
" No. of premises connected to cesspools or septic tanks	1,731
" No. of premises with pail closets)	Exact figure not known
" " " " earth closets)	
" No. of premises not connected to public water supply	220
" No. of Informal Notices served	48
" No. of Statutory Notices served	1

4) Control of Infestation

Rodent Control

A part time Rodent Operator was employed and disinfection was carried out in accordance with the recommendations laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

No. of visits made:	Dwelling houses	852
	Agricultural	294
	Business Premises	35
	Local Authority	49
No. of premises treated:	Minor infestations	211
	Major infestations	34
	Mice	95

Vermis

Several minor infestations of flies were successfully treated.

5) Refuse Collection & Disposal

Collection of domestic refuse was undertaken by direct labour using two Bedford 7 cu. yd. covered collection vehicles.

Two driver/loaders and two loaders were employed on this service.

Disposal of refuse was by controlled tipping. Two tips were in use during the year, one at Stanford and one at Swingfield.

Salvage

Income derived from the sale of salvaged materials was £190.13. 0d. 41 tons 6 cwt. 3 qrs. of waste paper were collected and sold, the remainder of the income was realised from the sale of scrap metals and mixed rags.

SECTION E.

Food

1) Milk

Number of retailers	12
Number of dairies	3

Eight licences to use the special designation "Pasteurised" and seven licences to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk sold retail were in force in the district.

2) Ice Cream

No ice cream or iced lollies were manufactured in the district. 26 premises were registered for the sale and storage for sale of ice cream. Only pre-wrapped ice cream was retailed in the district.

3) Meat and Other Foods

Four private slaughterhouse licences were in force.

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed:	196	21	188	2,808	1,740
Number inspected:	196	21	188	2,808	1,740
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:	Nil	Nil	3	13	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	15	2	2	179	87
% of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci:	7.75	9.4	1.06	6.3	5.0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	3	1	Nil	Nil	45
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	1.5	4.7	Nil	Nil	2.5

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Larbs	Pigs
<u>Cysticercosis only</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration:	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Home killed beef:- 7 cwt. 1qr. 3 lbs.
 Home killed pork:- 5 cwt. 0qr. 17 lbs.
 Home killed mutton:- 4 cwt. 2qr. 14 lbs.
 Home killed veal:- 1qr. 1 lb.
 Misc. tinned goods:- 1 cwt. 2qr. 12 lbs.

Slaughtering by a wholesale dealer at one slaughterhouse has meant working after normal office hours every Sunday, Monday and Tuesday often up to midnight. 310 hours overtime were worked during the year. No overtime payments were made.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

The standard of hygiene in foodshops has gradually improved over the year due to routine inspections and the service of informal notices.

There are no food factories in the district.

SECTION F.

Housing

1) Number of inspections:-	187
Informal notices served (Housing & Public Health Acts):-	37
Informal notices complied with:-	29
Statutory notices served:-	1
Statutory notices complied with by owner:-	1
Statutory notices complied with by L.A. in default:-	Nil
a) Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts:-	89
b) Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation:-	37
c) Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost:-	7
d) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action:-	23
e) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made:-	1

- f) Number of houses demolished:- 2
- g) Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957:- Nil
- h) Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled:- Nil

2) Improvement Grants made under the Housing Act, 1949.

Number of applications received:- 27

Number of applications refused:- 1

Number of applications withdrawn:- Nil

Number of dwellings involved:- 32

Total cost of works, including repairs:- £17,151.2.1d.

Total amount of grants made:- £ 7,095.10.0d.

3) Council Houses

No Council houses were erected during the year.

259 dwellings in the District were owned by the Local Authority.

This was 8.108% of the total number of dwellings in the District.

4) Privately Built Houses

23 private dwellings were erected during the year and 18 were in course of erection at the end of the year.

271 post war private houses have been erected up to the 31st December, 1957.

R. King

Surveyor & Public Health
Inspector.

Council Offices,
Lyminge.

July, 1958.